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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A canning structure which comprises a ceramic honeycomb structure; said honeycomb structure having been not loaded with a catalyst, a metal case and a holding material, and said ceramic honeycomb structure being canned in said metal case and being held by said holding material thereto;~~

~~wherein an impermeable layer is provided on at least one edge plane in longitudinal direction of said holding material.~~

A canned ceramic honeycomb structure, comprising:

a metal case;

a ceramic honeycomb structure not loaded with a catalyst and contained within said metal case;

a holding material located between said ceramic honeycomb structure and said metal case, said holding material and said metal case having a common longitudinal direction, wherein the holding material has at least one peripheral edge defining at least one edge plane perpendicular to said longitudinal direction; an impermeable layer located on said at least one edge plane.

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2. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein the length of said impermeable layer is not greater than 10 mm~~or less~~.

3. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein plane pressure properties of said impermeable layer are ~~approximately equal to, or less~~ not greater than those of said holding material.

4. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said ceramic honeycomb structure has a second edge plane, and said at least one edge plane of said holding material having said impermeable layer is formed on approximately same plane as located thereon and said second edge plane of said ceramic honeycomb structure are substantially in common.

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5. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said impermeable layer comprises ~~at least one edge plane in the longitudinal direction of said holding material to which an impermeable material has adhered to said holding material along said at least one edge plane of the~~ holding material.

6. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the form of said impermeable material is that of a thin film.~~

7. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the form of said impermeable material is that of~~ comprises a rope, with rope having one of a circular, quadrangular, or arbitrary cross-section.

8. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said impermeable material ~~is formed of~~ comprises resin such as selected from the group consisting of plastic, rubber, paper, cloth, ~~or~~ and like fiber.

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9. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said impermeable layer comprises a portion located adjacent said at least one edge plane ~~in the longitudinal direction of said holding material~~ material, said portion being impregnated with impermeable matter such as selected from the group consisting of oils and fats.

10. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein the partition thickness of said ceramic honeycomb structure is not greater than 0.10 mm ~~or thinner.~~

11. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said holding material ~~is~~ comprises a non-intumescent ceramic fiber mat.

12. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a canning structure which comprises a ceramic honeycomb structure; said honeycomb structure having been not loaded with a catalyst, a metal case and a holding material, and said ceramic honeycomb structure being canned in said metal case and being held by said holding material thereto;

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which comprises forming an impermeable layer by adhering an impermeable material on at least one edge plane of the holding material in the longitudinal direction, thereby at least one edge plane of said impermeable layer of the holding material and edge plane of the ceramic honeycomb structure are provided on approximately same plane.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a canning structure comprises a ceramic honeycomb structure; said honeycomb structure having been not loaded with a catalyst, a metal case and a holding material, and said ceramic honeycomb structure being canned in said metal case and being held by said holding material thereto;

which comprises impregnating an impermeable matter so as to form an impermeable layer on at least one edge plane in the longitudinal direction of a holding material, thereby at least one edge plane of said impermeable layer of the holding material and edge plane of the ceramic honeycomb structure are provided on approximately same plane.